

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pan head apparatus comprising:

a head unit where a camera can be mounted;

a base unit having a stationary portion, a
5 rotating mechanism, and a rotary portion which is
rotated with respect to said stationary portion by said
rotating mechanism; and

a connecting member which pivotally connects said
head unit and said rotary portion of said base unit,

10 wherein when said head unit and said base unit
are pivoted by said connecting member, a state wherein
said head unit and said base unit are placed
substantially flat side by side and a state wherein
said head unit is upright with respect to said base
15 unit can be assumed.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising a camera unit pivotally mounted on said head
unit,

wherein a state wherein said base unit, said head
20 unit, and said camera unit are placed substantially
flat side by side can be assumed.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in
said base unit, part of said stationary portion forms a
rotation center shaft portion of said rotary portion.

25 4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a
tripod attaching portion is formed on said rotation
center shaft portion.

5. An apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a round disk-like cap member fixed to said rotation center shaft portion and exposed to an upper surface of said base unit, wherein an operation switch
5 is arranged on said cap member.

6. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said rotary portion forms an upper surface of said base unit,

a round disk-like cap member is fixed to said
10 rotation center shaft portion and exposed to the upper surface of said base unit to cover part of said rotary portion, and

a scale to show a rotation amount is formed on either one of said cap member and said rotary portion,
15 and a mark for indicating the scale is formed on the remaining one of said cap member and said rotary portion.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a shutter release button is arranged on said head unit.

20 8. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a detector which detects whether or not said head unit is set in an upright state with respect to said base unit by pivot motion of said connecting portion,

25 wherein when said detector detects that said head unit is upright, rotation of said rotary portion by said rotating mechanism is permitted.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotating mechanism includes

a motor which is mounted on said stationary portion to generate a rotation force,

5 a transmitting mechanism to transmit the rotation force of said motor to said rotary portion, and

a torque limiter formed in a transmission path of the rotation force in said transmitting mechanism.

10. A cable accommodating apparatus comprising:

10 a first member having an upright inner wall;

a second member, having an upright outer wall, opposing said first member, and rotatably mounted on said first member; and

a cable having one end fixed to said first member
15 and the other end fixed to said second member, the cable having a length at least necessary for rotation,

wherein an excessive portion of the cable produced by rotation of said second member is accommodated in a space a width of which is defined by
20 said inner wall and said outer wall and a height of which is defined by opposing surfaces of said first and second members, the excessive portion being arranged to extend along said inner wall and said outer wall respectively before and after a U-shaped bent portion,
25 and

the U-shaped bent portion moves in the space along with the rotation.

11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said inner wall and said outer wall stand vertically upright with respect to said first and second members.

12. An apparatus according to claim 10, further
5 comprising:

a first guide member which guides the excessive portion of the cable to extend along said outer wall; and

a second guide member which guides the excessive
10 portion of the cable to extend along said inner wall.

13. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the space changes a width thereof at a predetermined portion within a moving range of the U-shaped bent portion, so that the space includes a first region
15 having a first width and a second region having a second width smaller than the first width, the first and second regions being aligned along a direction in which the cable winds on said inner surface.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the
20 first and second regions are formed when a curvature of said inner wall changes at the predetermined portion within the moving range.

15. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the predetermined portion falls on a central portion of the
25 moving range.

16. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the predetermined portion at a central position of rotation

falls in the vicinity of the U-shaped bent portion.

17. An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a cylindrical member which is fixed to said second member and projects into the space,

5 wherein said cylindrical member is arranged at a position to abut against the cable at a terminal end of the rotational in the direction in which the cable winds on said inner wall.

18. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the
10 cable comprises a plurality of flat cables bundled together in a direction of thickness.